

## Process Paper

From the beginning, we knew that we wanted to research a topic related to the scientific field. We decided to research the discovery of HIV because it's a relevant topic due to the virus' prominence in society. Additionally, after hearing about the controversy through our research, we became very intrigued. We thought it was so fascinating and such an underrecognized story, which would make it a wonderfully unique topic. As the annual theme is 'Communication in History', our topic shows a major failed communication, and how that can delay achievement in the scientific field.

Throughout our NHD experience, we referenced several medical journals, including those of the scientists credited with identifying HIV and various websites. These provided a better understanding how these doctors worked toward finding the virus causing HIV, and how difficult yet significant the discovery was. We also used newspapers and interviews from that time period, which provided a clearer understanding of how the press and public reacted to the discovery. In addition, we watched a movie directed at blaming Gallo, which opened a new door of controversy. After realizing there were several unpublished photos that could strengthen our website, we contacted a lawyer who worked with Montagnier, as well as spoke with her to enhance our understanding of the court case over the HIV test patent,

For the majority of the time spent on our project, we focused heavily on researching and making ourselves more familiar with the complicated storyline. Because there are so many pieces of the story, it was challenging to explain it, while also condensing it to fit the word limit. After this, we gathered images and videos related to our topic that could support the thesis and help move the story along. Next, we uploaded our content to the website platform and worked on formatting, designs, and visuals, while also reviewing our bibliography.

Our historical argument is that Gallo and Montagnier's competition over who discovered HIV resulted in dishonesty and overall failed communication of crucial scientific information. Perhaps if Gallo and Montagnier had worked more collaboratively, putting their competitive mindsets aside, their joint effort may have resulted in sooner isolation of HIV and development of diagnostic testing. More lives could have been spared and treatment of the disease could have arrived sooner. This example of failure to communicate honestly and effectively between countries delayed significant progress in the AIDS field.

Our topic relates to the AIDS epidemic, which was an extremely devastating yet significant piece of history. Behind the scenes, not too many were aware of the controversy going on between scientists. Although both teams just wanted to help the world through the epidemic, while also earning royalties, their competition ultimately delayed achievement and cost lives. Even after this debate settled down, examples of miscommunication in science are still present today, as with the current COVID-19 pandemic. This example of failed communication should teach future scientists that in order for efficient collaboration, honest communication is necessary, competitive mindsets aside.